

# *The Salinas* **Californian**

## **King City officers' union votes 'no confidence' against police chief**

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Author: KIMBER SOLANA

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ksolana@thecalifornian.com

Members of the King City police officers' union have doubts that Police Chief Nick Baldiviez can run the city's Police Department.

The King City Police Officer's Association announced Monday that a majority of the eight-member group have "no confidence" in the chief.

The union voted Thursday, said Officer Christopher Craig, association president.

But as of Monday night, union and city officials remained mum on the details of the allegations against Baldiviez, who has been police chief for six years.

"I really can't comment on the issue," Baldiviez said Monday. "But I will say they're not entirely accurate."

The union sent a letter outlining the allegations against Baldiviez to the City Council and City Manager Michael Powers.

"What the vote means is that there have been some incidents that have come up lately, and we are not confident [Baldiviez] can make decisions for us," Craig said. "Now we wait for what his bosses will do."

Craig and Powers were also tight-lipped about the officers' allegations, citing a pending investigation.

"I was surprised to receive the letter," Powers said. He added that he needs to speak with the city attorney before commenting on the vote.

Baldiviez said Monday he is seeking the legal assistance of high-profile Salinas defense attorney Thomas Worthington.

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Worthington said he also couldn't comment until he's reviewed the paperwork. He did say, however, he believes the allegations have no "suggestion of any criminal wrong-doing."

Baldiviez, who has been in the department for 21 years, is a member of the Fraternal Order of Police -- a nationwide police entity that obtains legal representation for officers in civil cases.

The police association vote comes about two weeks after the King City Council unanimously approved the hiring of an outside consultant to conduct an audit of the Police Department to look into allegations of officer misconduct and improving the agency's efficiency.

Arvin Police Chief Tommy Tunson will conduct the audit, costing the city about \$10,000.